

ABSTRACT

A presence system 4 manages communications in a network 2 between initiating parties 8 and recipient parties 6. The system 4 has a database 10 storing entries each 5 relating to recipient parties 6. Each entry is stored according to a unique identifier assigned to the corresponding recipient party 6 and includes at least one rule specifying the manner of communications between the corresponding recipient party 6 and an initiating party 8.